

REMARKS

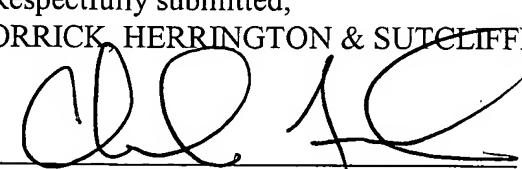
Claim 1 was the only claim pending in the current application, and it was rejected on the basis of obviousness-type double patenting over US Patent Nos. 6,635,081 and 6,3422,585, and as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,843,158 to Lenkers et al. By this amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled, thereby obviating these rejections.

By cancelling claim 1, Applicant does not concede that the Examiner was correct to reject the claim as being anticipated by the Lenkers et al. patent. For example, the Lenkers et al. patent fails to describe, among other things, a stent-graft having an exo-skeleton with support elements that have both “generally axial segments” and “generally circumferential segments,” nor does the Lenkers et al. patent show “first fasteners” and “second fasteners” that interface with the support elements in the manner recited in claim 1. Thus, Applicant’s cancellation of this claim should not be interpreted as an agreement with the Examiner’s rejection of that claim.

New claims 29 through 43 have been added. Applicant submits that these claims contain patentable subject matter, and requests consideration and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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